

What is claimed is:

1. A method for examining a living being, the method comprising:  
stabilizing the living being in an examination area, using at least two gates, for at least a predeterminable time period, wherein the examination area is operatively coupled to an examination instrument; and  
automatically carrying out the examination of the living being, using the examination instrument, during the predeterminable time period.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the examination area and the at least two gates are parts of an examination system, the examination system further including an entry, a discharge area and an exit.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
closing a second of the at least two gates;  
closing a first of the at least two gates as soon as the living being has entered the examination area; and  
opening the second gate after having closed the first gate, and after the predeterminable time period has elapsed.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the examination is started as soon as the living being is in the examination area.
5. A device for stabilizing and examining a living being, comprising:  
an examination area; and  
an examination instrument, operatively coupled to the examination instrument, wherein the living being is examined during a predeterminable time period and is enclosable in the examination area during at least the predeterminable time period, and wherein an examination of the living being is carried out automatically by the examination instrument during the predeterminable time period.

6. The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein at least two gates are adapted to enclose the living being in the examination area.
7. The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein an entry, the examination area and an exit form an elongate tunnel, including a diameter that substantially restricts the freedom of movement of the living being other than along the tunnel.
8. The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the examination area and the at least two gates are opaque, and wherein the examination instrument is an optical examination instrument, operatively coupled to the examination area via a window.
9. The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the examination instrument is a CCD camera, the predeterminable time period is from 0.5 to 5 seconds, and the at least two gates are light-tight doors.
10. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method is for stabilizing animals during optical in vivo domestic animal imaging.
11. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the device is used for immobilizing animals during optical in vivo domestic animal imaging.
12. The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
  - closing a second of the at least two gates, relatively closest to the exit;
  - closing a first of the at least two gates, relatively closest to the entry, as soon as the living being has entered the examination area; and
  - opening the second gate after having closed the first gate, and after the predeterminable time period has elapsed.
13. The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein an entry, the examination area and an exit form an elongate tunnel, including a diameter that substantially restricts the freedom of movement of the living being other than along the tunnel.

14. The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the examination area and the at least two gates are opaque, and wherein the examination instrument is an optical examination instrument, operatively coupled to the examination area via a window.

15. The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the examination area and the at least two gates are opaque, and wherein the examination instrument is an optical examination instrument, operatively coupled to the examination area via a window.

16. The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the examination area and the at least two gates are opaque, and wherein the examination instrument is an optical examination instrument, operatively coupled to the examination area via a window.

17. The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the examination instrument is a CCD camera, the predeterminable time period is from 0.5 to 5 seconds, and the at least two gates are light-tight doors.

18. The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the examination instrument is a CCD camera, the predeterminable time period is from 0.5 to 5 seconds, and the at least two gates are light-tight doors.

19. The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the examination instrument is a CCD camera, the predeterminable time period is from 0.5 to 5 seconds, and the at least two gates are light-tight doors.

20. The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the examination instrument is a CCD camera, the predeterminable time period is from 0.5 to 5 seconds, and the at least two gates are light-tight doors.

21. The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the examination instrument is a CCD camera, the predeterminable time period is from 0.5 to 5 seconds, and the at least two gates are light-tight doors.

22. The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the examination instrument is a CCD camera, the predeterminable time period is from 0.5 to 5 seconds, and the at least two gates are light-tight doors.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the predeterminable time period is from 0.5 to 5 seconds.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the predeterminable time period is less than 1 second.

25. The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the predeterminable time period is less than 1 second.

26. A system for examining a living being, comprising:  
means for stabilizing the living being in an examination area for at least a predeterminable time period, wherein the examination area is operatively coupled to an examination instrument; and  
means for automatically carrying out the examination of the living being during the predeterminable time period.

27. The system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the examination area and the means for stabilizing are parts of an examination system, the examination system further including an entry, a discharge area and an exit.

28. The system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the means for stabilizing includes at least two gates and wherein a second of the at least two gates is first closed, a first of the at least two gates is then closed as soon as the living being has entered the examination area, and the second gate is then opened after having closed the first gate, and after the predeterminable time period has elapsed.

29. The system of claim 26, wherein the predeterminable time period is from 0.5 to 5 seconds.

30. The system of claim 26, wherein the predeterminable time period is less than 1 second.